

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291

Application Number: 09/759,935

-3-

Claims 1-45 (Cancelled)

46. (New) A video on demand system comprising:
an application server to associate a unique group identifier with each physical transmission path from a headend to each of a plurality of subscriber terminal groups;
the application server to receive from a requesting subscriber terminal of a particular group a request for video on demand data including a group identifier for the particular group, to extract and recognize the group identifier from the request for video on demand, to select only modulators of the physical transmission path associated with the particular group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the subscriber terminal; and
a data formatter to periodically insert the unique group identifier for each terminal group into communications directed only to subscriber terminals of the terminal group.

47. (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising:
a program selector to assign to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected modulators and to communicate to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

48. (New) The system of claim 46 further comprising a video server to periodically communicate the unique group identifiers as part of program streams.

49. (New) The system of claim 48 the video server periodically communicating the unique group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.

50. (New) A method of providing video on demand, comprising:
associating a unique group identifier with each physical transmission path from a headend to each of a plurality of subscriber terminal groups;
receiving from a requesting subscriber terminal of a particular group a request for video on demand data including a group identifier for the particular group;

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291
Application Number: 09/759,935

-4-

extracting and recognizing the group identifier from the request for video on demand; selecting only modulators of the physical transmission path associated with the particular group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the subscriber terminal; and periodically inserting the unique group identifier for each terminal group into communications directed only to subscriber terminals of the terminal group.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
assigning to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected modulators and communicating to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.
52. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising periodically communicating the unique group identifiers as part of program streams.
53. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising periodically communicating the unique group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.